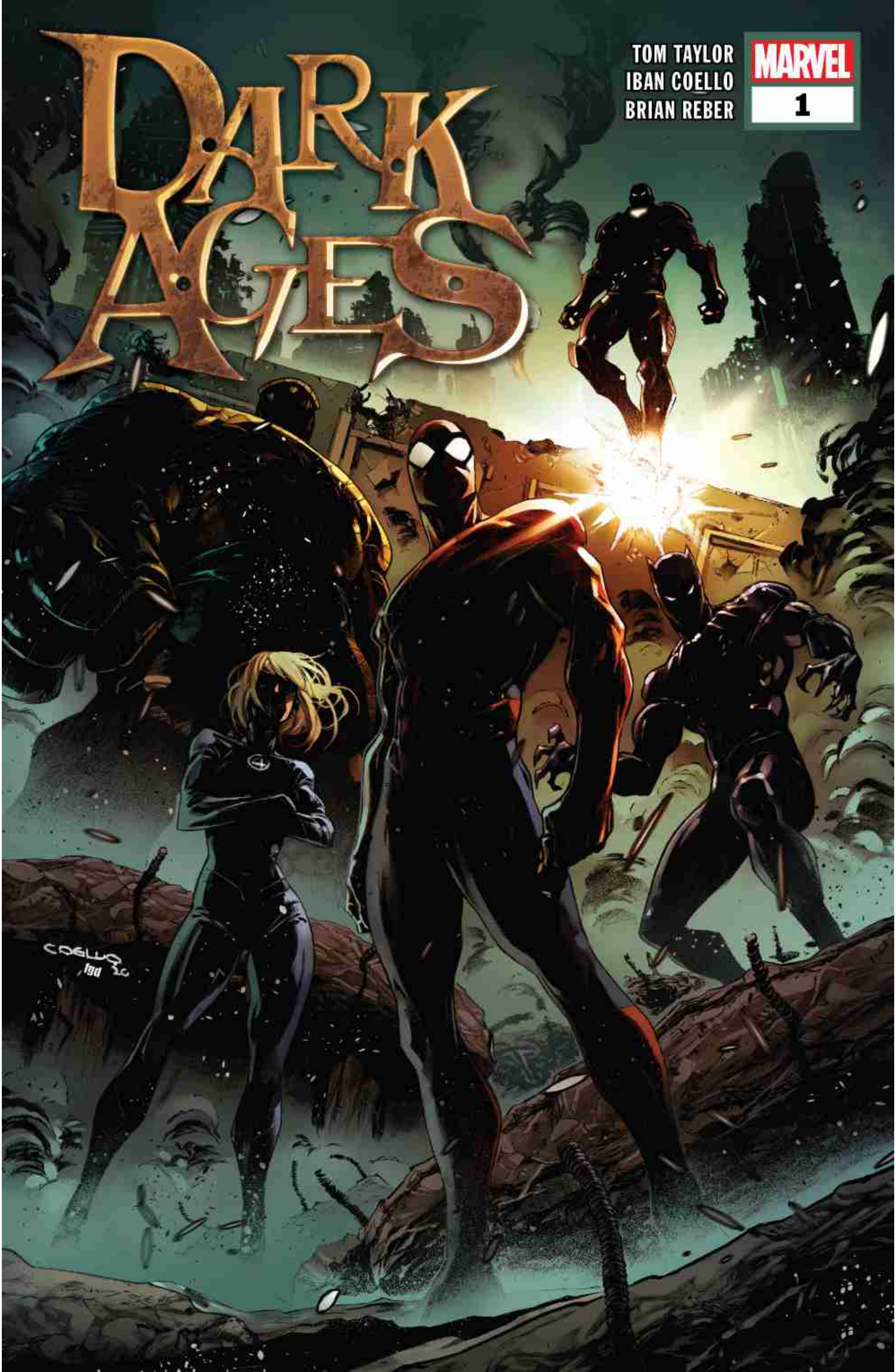
DARK AGES
TOM TAYLOR
IBAN COELLO
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MARVEL
1

DARK AGES

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New Jersey.
IT WAS A FRIDAY. IT WAS A LOT EASIER TO KEEP TRACK OF THE DAYS BACK THEN.
JUST A REGULAR FRIDAY AFTERNOON CATCH-UP. JESSICA JONES, LUKE CAGE, THEIR GIRL DANI AND SOME PIZZA.
PETER PARKER.
YEAH, MJ?
OUR DAUGHTER IS ON THE CEILING AGAIN.

YEAH?
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
I MEAN, MAY'S NOT GOING TO FALL. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
SHE COULD PUT HER HAND IN THE LIGHT SOCKET?
THANKS FOR THAT INPUT, JESS.
SORRY. I INVESTIGATE A LOT OF DEATHS.
LOOK, IT'S SIMPLE. I'D LIKE TO TEACH OUR DAUGHTER THE FLOOR IS FOR WALKING AND THE CEILING IS FOR... ALL THE THINGS CEILINGS ARE FOR.
ESSENTIALLY, I'D LIKE GRAVITY TO BE A RULE WE SET IN OUR HOME.
YEAH. OKAY. I'LL GET HER DOWN.
DA?
HEY, ANGEL. TIME TO GET--

THE SPIDERS FELT IT FIRST.
HNNNG.
HRAARGHH!
WE FELT THE DANGER COMING SO STRONGLY IT PHYSICALLY HURT.
HRRRR.
HEY. UM... ARE WE STILL DOING THIS, OR...?
MAY!
AAAA.
I'D FELT STRONG SPIDER-SENSE BEFORE, LIKE WHEN GALACTUS WAS APPROACHING THE EARTH.
BUT THIS WAS WORSE. SO MUCH WORSE. IT WASN'T LIKE THE DEVOURER OF WORLDS WAS COMING TO EAT THE PLANET--IT WAS LIKE HE WAS ALREADY TAKING A BITE...

...WHICH WAS ABOUT RIGHT.
IN AN UNDERGROUND LABORATORY ACROSS TOWN, A WARNING SYSTEM PINGED.
HUH?
MOON GIRL'S MIND RACED AHEAD OF THE PROBLEM. SAW THE PATTERN THAT NO ONE ELSE COULD YET.
OH NO.
DEVIL!
MOMENTS LATER, LUNELLA LAFAYETTE WAS RACING THROUGH NEW YORK ON HER DINOSAUR.
THE WORLD'S SMARTEST PERSON ON HER WAY TO THE BAXTER BUILDING TO TALK TO THE WORLD'S SECOND-SMARTEST PERSON.

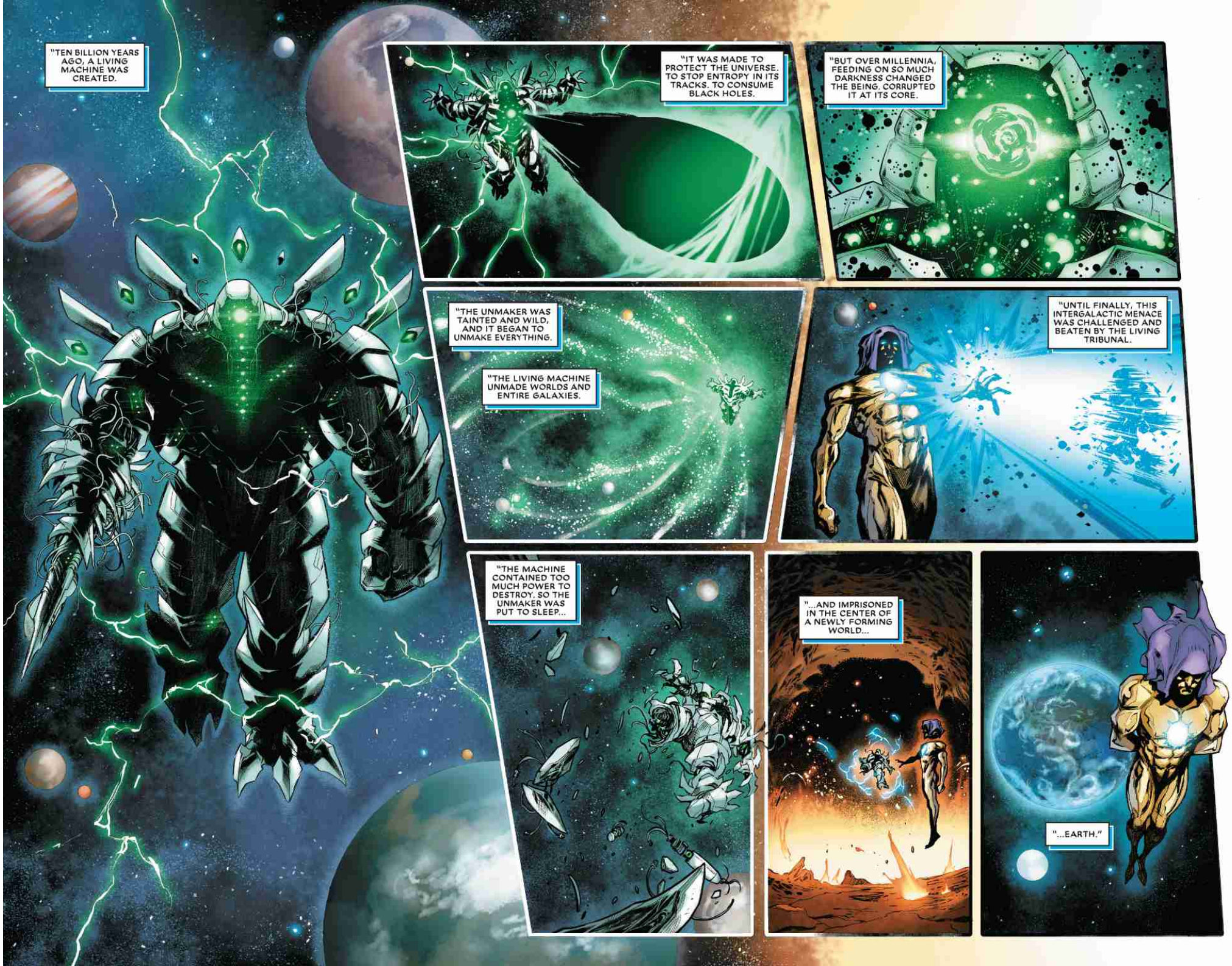
THE STRONGEST MINDS ON THE PLANET SENSED IT COME ONLINE.
CHARLES. DO YOU FEEL IT?
I FEEL IT, JEAN.
A MIND HAS AWOKEN.
UNLIKE ANY I'VE FELT BEFORE.
AND ONE WENT FURTHER.
EN SABAH NUR. HE WAS A CYBERPATH AND GENERALLY JUST BAD NEWS. HIS MIND TOUCHED SOMETHING OLD AND POWERFUL...
YES.
...AND CRAVED MORE.
I HEAR YOU.

AAAAAA.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I DON'T KNOW, LUKE. IT'S SPIDER-SENSE. IT'S PRETTY CLEAR ON THE IMPENDING DOOM BUT HAS ALWAYS BEEN FRUSTRATINGLY VAGUE ON THE DETAILS.
AAAAAA.
ALL I KNOW IS SOMETHING VERY, VERY BAD IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. I NEED TO SEE REED AND SUE.
I WANT YOU TO GET TO SAFETY, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT IS.
IT'S OKAY...
"...GO DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO."

AH, REED?
I'M KIND OF BUSY HERE, JOHNNY.
SURE. IT'S JUST...
...THERE'S A DINOSAUR PARKED IN OUR LOBBY.
THE FIRST TREMOR WAS FELT IN NEW YORK AT MIDNIGHT.
ISSUE ONE

WHAT WAS...?
MISTER RICHARDS.
MOON GIRL? VAL?
WHAT IS IT?
YOU NEED TO SEE SOMETHING, DAD.
SEE, THE TREMORS AREN'T CONSISTENT WITH TECTONIC-PLATE SHIFTS. THE QUAKES ARE TOO SHORT.
THEY LOOK LIKE IMPACT TREMORS...BUT IT CAN'T BE ON THE SURFACE. WE'D KNOW. THIS IS COMING FROM DEEP.
WE'RE BEING ATTACKED FROM INSIDE THE EARTH.
DAD...
...I THINK THE WORLD IS ENDING.
YES...

...THE WORLD IS ENDING.
GAH!
HE WAS NAMED UATU. THE WATCHER. YOUR TYPICAL INTERGALACTIC BEING OF IMMENSE POWER, WHO SPENT ALL HIS TIME WATCHING THE EARTH FROM THE MOON.
HE WAS EFFECTIVELY AN OMNIPOTENT STALKER.
THIS IS WHAT I HAVE BEEN WATCHING FOR.
THE EARTH HAS HOURS.
AND HE CAME WITH VERY BAD NEWS.


"TEN BILLION YEARS AGO, A LIVING MACHINE WAS CREATED.
"IT WAS MADE TO PROTECT THE UNIVERSE. TO STOP ENTROPY IN ITS TRACKS. TO CONSUME BLACK HOLES.
"BUT OVER MILLENNIA, FEEDING ON SO MUCH DARKNESS CHANGED THE BEING. CORRUPTED IT AT ITS CORE.
"THE UNMAKER WAS TAINTED AND WILD, AND IT BEGAN TO UNMAKE EVERYTHING.
"THE LIVING MACHINE UNMADE WORLDS AND ENTIRE GALAXIES.
"UNTIL FINALLY, THIS INTERGALACTIC MENACE WAS CHALLENGED AND BEATEN BY THE LIVING TRIBUNAL.
"THE MACHINE CONTAINED TOO MUCH POWER TO DESTROY. SO THE UNMAKER WAS PUT TO SLEEP...
"...AND IMPRISONED IN THE CENTER OF A NEWLY FORMING WORLD...
"...EARTH."

BUT NOW, THIS LONG-DORMANT LIVING MACHINE IS WAKING.
WHEN IT WAKES TO ITS POWER FULLY, IT WILL CRACK OPEN THE PLANET AND UNMAKE THIS WORLD AND WORLDS BEYOND.
SO WE NEED TO PUT IT DOWN.
I MEAN, YOU SAID THAT WITH A LOT OF CONVICTION, BEN. BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA *HOW* WE DO THAT?
WE CAME UP WITH AN IDEA FOR HOW TO DO THAT.
THE GREATEST THINKERS ON THE PLANET PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER...
...AND DECIDED WE HAD TO TAKE ON THE THREAT DIRECTLY.

WE ASSEMBLED A STRIKE TEAM.
THE VISION. A LIVING MACHINE TO FIGHT A LIVING MACHINE.
THE SCARLET WITCH. A SHAPER OF REALITY TO FIGHT AGAINST A BEING WHO COULD UNMAKE IT.
DOCTOR STRANGE. THE SORCERER SUPREME TO FIGHT THE PINNACLE OF TECHNOLOGY.
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN. TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE HEAT OF THE EARTH'S CORE.
AND THE THING. IN CASE ANYTHING COULD BE SOLVED BY HITTING REALLY HARD.
THEY SAID THEIR GOODBYES. AND STEPPED THROUGH A PORTAL...
...CARRYING EARTH'S FINAL HOPES TO THE CENTER OF THE WORLD.
OH MAN...

...THAT'S GONNA TAKE SOME CLOBBERIN'.

THE MACHINE PAID THEM NO ATTENTION AT ALL.
IT JUST KEPT TRYING TO BREAK OPEN THE WORLD AND ESCAPE.
BOOOM
SUE!
KROOOM

MOMENTS LATER, THE FIRST TREMOR WAS FELT ACROSS AFRICA.
RUMBLE
WHAT DO WE DO?
WE HELP.
THE DESTRUCTION WAS LIMITED IN WAKANDA, A NATION BUILT ON A BEDROCK OF VIBRANIUM.
Kathmandu, Nepal.
ACROSS THE WORLD, OTHER CITIES WEREN'T SO LUCKY.
Vancouver, Canada.
THE GROUND HEAVED AND BUILDINGS COLLAPSED.

IT WASN'T JUST THE SURFACE THAT WAS SHAKEN.
BENEATH THE WAVES, THE SEABED CRACKED OPEN.
AND THE KING OF THE SEA WAS POWERLESS TO STOP ATLANTIS FROM BEING SWALLOWED BY THE EARTH.

ACROSS THE WORLD, HEROES CAME TOGETHER TO SAVE ALL THEY COULD.
SNIKT
SNIKT
X-MEN...
HEY! JUST SIT TIGHT IN THERE!
ACTUALLY, I GUESS THAT'S A BIT REDUNDANT. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE ANY OTHER OPTIONS.
SHNK
...AND AVENGERS.
Los Angeles.
RUNAWAYS...
DON'T BE DISTRACTED BY THE VELOCIRAPTOR. RUN!
...AND CHAMPIONS.
I'VE GOT YOU!
AS THE WORLD FELL APART, HEROES TRIED TO KEEP IT TOGETHER.
REED? THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE MUCH LEFT TO SAVE IF THE WORLD KEEPS SHAKING.
ANY NEWS FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH?

AT THE CENTER OF EARTH, I WISH I COULD TELL YOU A BATTLE RAGED.
BUT IT WASN'T A BATTLE...IT WAS A SLAUGHTER.
BEN!
TNK
TNK
TNK
THE SCARLET WITCH ATTEMPTED TO RESHAPE REALITY, BUT, DESPITE STILL WAKING TO ITS FULL POWERS, THE UNMAKER SIMPLY UNMADE EVERYTHING SHE TRIED TO DO.
AND THEN...

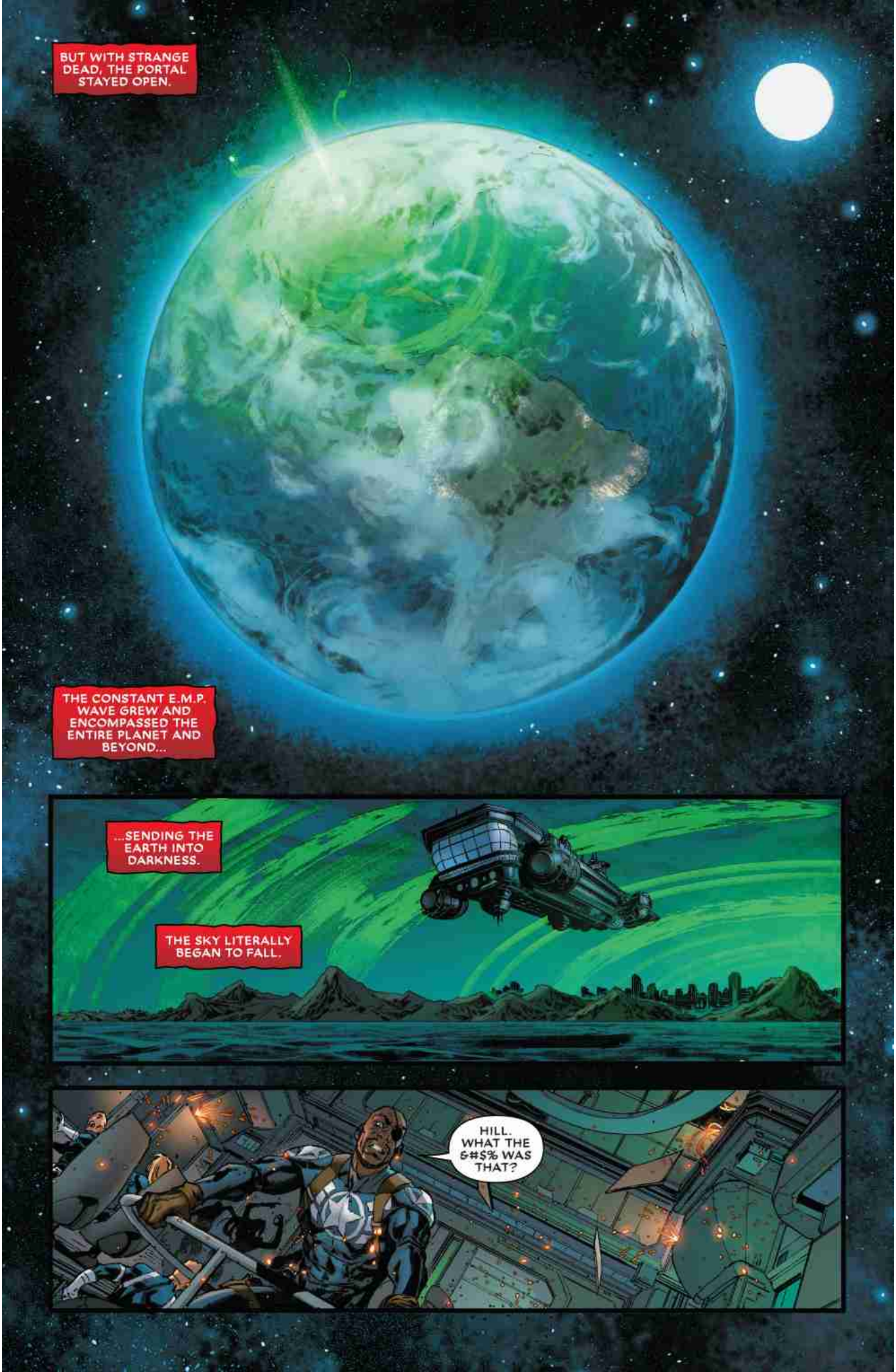
...IT UNMADE WANDA.
VIS--
WANDA!!!
YOU!
THE VISION BOUGHT US VITAL SECONDS.
HE ENTERED THE UNMAKER'S HEAD.

WITH THE GROUND BEING UNMADE AROUND THEM, SUE STORM DEFENDED AGAINST THE UNMAKER'S POWERS. SHE WAS ABLE TO HOLD ON TO A SMALL POCKET OF REALITY.
STRANGE! I CAN'T HOLD THIS MUCH LONGER!
IN DESPERATION, DOCTOR STRANGE REACHED OUT TO OTHER REALITIES FOR ANYTHING HE COULD USE AGAINST THE UNMAKER.
AND HE FOUND A WEAPON.

HE OPENED A PORTAL TO A DIMENSION WHERE NO ELECTRICITY COULD FUNCTION.
AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE BEAT AT THE HEART OF THIS REALM.

THE ELECTRICAL BEING REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING...

...AND LASHED OUT.
SHIK
GH
NO!
SH
LK
AS THE UNMAKER KILLED DOCTOR STRANGE, THE E.M.P. DID ITS JOB.
IT HALTED THE UNMAKER.
STEPHEN.
IT'S OKAY... HNNNG...WE... WE DID IT.
LIVE, SUE...
WITH HIS LAST BREATH, DOCTOR STRANGE SENT SUE STORM AWAY.


BUT WITH STRANGE DEAD, THE PORTAL STAYED OPEN.
THE CONSTANT E.M.P. WAVE GREW AND ENCOMPASSED THE ENTIRE PLANET AND BEYOND...
...SENDING THE EARTH INTO DARKNESS.
THE SKY LITERALLY BEGAN TO FALL.
HILL. WHAT THE &#$% WAS THAT?

EVERYTHING STOPPED.
FROM POWERED SUITS...
...TO SWITCHES.
CLNK CLNK
OH NO.
MACHINES SUSTAINING LIFE...
...ARTIFICIAL LIFE...
VIV?

...AND WEB-SHOOTERS.
THWIP
THW--
I WAS TRYING TO GET BACK TO MJ AND MAY.
AS I FELL, I SAW MY BUILDING... OUR HOME... FALL TOO.
RMMBLE
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LEFT THEM.
KOOOOM
MJ! MAY!

PETER. MJ WAS...
SHE WAS HELPING THE LAST PEOPLE EVACUATE WHEN THE BUILDING CAME DOWN.
JESS. LUKE. HELP ME!
PETER...
HELP ME!
MY GOD.
THE WORLD WAS DARK...

...BUT THERE WAS STILL SOME LIGHT.
DA!
HEY THERE, TIGER.
HEY THERE, MARY JANE.

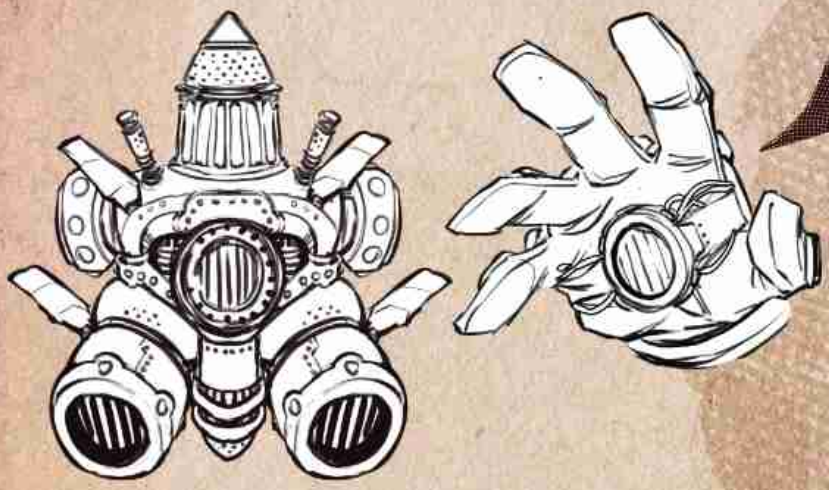
SEVEN YEARS AGO, THE WORLD WE KNEW ENDED.
WE BUILT ANOTHER WORLD. A WORLD TO BE PROUD OF.

BUT YEARS AFTER THE LIGHTS WENT OUT--AFTER THE END...

...CAME THE APOCALYPSE.
Next: The New World.

HERE'S A SNEAK PEEK AT WHAT'S TO COME IN

DARK AGES



IBAN COELLO'S DESIGN FOR A STEAM-POWERED IRON MAN!

NEXT

It has been years since the age of technology ended in a single moment, like a switch had been flicked to "off" for an entire planet. Now, Earth's heroes attempt to bring humanity together in the darkness. X-Men and Avengers, vigilantes and villains, all work together to create something better. But something darker than the night is descending on the world. Our post-apocalyptic world is about to face Apocalypse.

ZONE